



SUMMER SPECIAL



Gradfest winner for News Writing

The award for best News Writing student went to Te Ngaronoa Mahanga. The award was presented by former News Writing lecturer and head of Crannog Communication, Ed Mason. The competition for the award this year was very close, but Te Ngaronoa's award was well deserved. His work for News Writing has been insightful, fresh and inventive. He was the leader of his group's radio project and oversaw its completion to a high standard.

[Te Ngaronoa](#) has also acted as a mentor to younger members of his class.

He has already demonstrated his eloquence and writing style in other venues – few who saw it will forget him rapping his way through his presentation in International Communications – and he promises to be one of the distinctive voices of his generation.

For more Gradfest stories and pictures, see pages 2 and 3.

ABOVE: Te Ngaronoa and former COMM6537 News Writing lecturer Ed Mason.



Bachelor of Communication programme leader Sara Donaghey presented the awards.

After Gutenberg 2015 launched



Phubeth Udomsilp (above) co-editor of this year's print edition of *After Gutenberg*, launched the magazine at this year's Gradfest.

He and co-editor Fale Tumanu produced an issue containing a range of student fiction, poetry and factual reporting. This was its third issue. From next year *After Gutenberg* will be produced as part of the [COMM6537](#) News Writing class.

Gradfest rewards students' hard work

Department of Communication Studies students and staff gathered at Unitec's Red Lecture theatre on November 26 for the annual Gradfest awards.

[HoD Joce Williams](#)'s voice had deserted her for the evening and BC programme leader Sara Donaghey presented the awards for the evening. The winner of this year's [Rising Star Award](#) for the top student in the Certificate in Communication and Media Arts went to Ben Sullivan, who delivered exceptional work. According to his citation, his mature demeanour made him a natural leader, motivating other students to strive for excellence.

The Deliquo Communications in a Global Context Award for the top 2015 Intercultural Communication was awarded to Aleisha Cawte by [Mariska Mannes](#). Aleisha demonstrated original approaches to her tasks and critical thinking.

Outstanding

This year's [Unitec Corporate Relations](#) Award for the top student in Event Production went to Arianne Zilberberg. Arianne was an outstanding student who played a critical role in the success of the class event [Bounding Out](#), which raised \$2500 for the Christie Marceau Charitable Trust. The award was presented by Elizabeth Phillips, Corporate Communications Manager Marketing and Communications, Unitec.

The [SenateSHJ Prize](#) for the top crisis strategy management report in Reputation Management went to Svetlana Antonova. It was presented by Julien Leys, General manager of SenateSHJ.

Her critique of the recent Auckland Council crisis communication strategy for Queensland fruit fly management in Grey Lynn resulted in the SenateSHJ annual award for a crisis management strategy report.

The [Westpac Award](#) for Outstanding Performance as an Intern went to [Henrike Forschler](#). Henrike could not be present and her award was collected for her by Dr Prue Cruickshank. The award was presented by Nicki Russell, Internal Communications Manager, Westpac NZ. Her host supervisor at Sweeney Vesty described her as quick, smart, intuitive an excellent writer and a pleasure to work with.

PRINZ

The [PRINZ Award](#) for Excellence in Public Relations went to John Sutton. John could not be present for the awards ceremony and his prize was collected for him by Deborah Rolland from Simone Bell, Chief Executive of PRINZ.

His citation said that John always approached his studies with clear commitment that enabled him to learn, to analyse and to propose effective and ethical communication solutions to whatever challenge was presented.

The PRINZ Award for Postgraduate Communication Management for the top student in Level 8 Strategic Communication and Information Management was presented to Shriram Krishnan by Simone Bell. The award acknowledged Shri's commitment to learning and the practice of strategic communication.

A stylized, cursive signature logo, possibly representing the initials 'AG' or 'SJ', located in the bottom right corner of the page.



Pictured clockwise from the top were Mariska Mannes and Aleisha Cawte; Svetlana Antonova; Antoinette Wessells and Ben Sullivan; the Department of Communications' photographic team, [Yana Tsapko](#) and [Aparna Kurup](#); Elizabeth Phillips and Arianne Zilberberg and Nicki Russell and Prue Cruickshank.

4. News Writing student profiles

From stand up comedy to serious news journalism is not an ordinary career path, but for but for Qian Han it's been the trajectory that has put her on television.

She moved to New Zealand from China five years ago to study acting at Unitec, driven by her passion for *The Lord of the Rings*. She discovered she had a talent for stand up and made a successful career as a comedian. She placed second in a national comedy competition in Auckland.

After one of her performances she gave an interview for the show *Who Will Be My Guest Today?* on World TV, a Chinese channel broadcasting from Auckland.

"I mentioned that I would love to be involved in TV one day and they offered me a job right after the show," Han said.

Since then she has worked as a news reporter and has dropped some of her acting courses to learn more about communication and become a better journalist.

-Charlotte Dahms

From comedian to journalist no ordinary career path



Getting used to separation at early age

Being separated from her family is something Charmian Siriheti had to get used to from an early age.

"Long distance is something I'm used to," Siriheti said.

"I've been at it since I was younger." During the civil war that broke out in the Solomon Islands in 1998, her father was so worried about her safety that he sent her to live with her grand aunt in Australia.

After she completed her secondary school and earned her diploma in Youth Work in Australia at 22, she decided to go back to the Solomons.

Home

Back home, she attended her friend's wedding where she was reunited with her childhood friend and the love of her life, Kerry.

The year after, she decided she wanted to further her studies at Unitec.

However, she halted her studies the following year. She married Kerry in 2013 and later adopted their four years-old son Jacob. Now she has returned to Unitec on her own to complete her degree in Communications.

-Anna Isabelle Santos

Bachelor of Communication at Unitec

The stories in the *After Gutenberg Summer Special* were written by students enrolled in [COMM6537 News Writing](#), which is offered as part of the Bachelor of Communication.

If you'd like to find out more about the Bachelor of Communication, go to

<http://www.unitec.ac.nz/about-us/contact-us/academic-departments/communication-studies>

How can I be mad with this view?



For Morgan Parkhurst it feels like New Zealand chose her and not that she chose New Zealand.

The 21-year old girl from Missouri left her home to study at Unitec. "I always wanted to see the world," Miss Parkhurst said. Her twin sister, Madelyn, also wanted to study abroad and is now in Florence. During her stay in New Zealand she wants to go tramping.

Tramping

She has already planned a backpacking trip around the South Island. The separation from her twin sister has been hard because they have never been apart more than a couple of hours. She has also found it hard to be apart from her family and boyfriend. "But how I can be mad, when I have such a view out of the window?" she asked.

-Magdalena Dorler

Unitec suited her better

Raised in Argentina, student Anita Sharp tried a semester at AUT before deciding that Unitec suited her better.

After growing up in the South American nation she and her mother returned to the land of her birth to care for her recently widowed grandmother. 20-year-old Sharp lived in Argentina between the ages of nine and 18, but is now living in Titirangi.

Argentina

She identifies herself much more with the Argentinian culture than that of New Zealand. One of the most challenging parts for Miss Sharp is the fact that she has to study in English. Miss Sharp finished her first years of studies at Unitec, before she decided to study at AUT.



"I wanted to be more academically challenged," Sharp said. However, after one semester at AUT she decided [Unitec](#) suited her needs better and came back. -Jessica Kugler

Communication studies offer path to work as music publicist

Unitec student Shannon Clout dreams of becoming a music publicist – but she's still got a long way to go.

The third year [Public Relations major](#) has been heavily influenced by magazines such as *Rock Sound* and *Kerrang!* Yet Clout recognises that Unitec is only her first step and it's important to learn the essentials first.

"This degree is useful for my career as it gives a basic understanding of communication, technology and social media," she said.

A key aspect of her qualification involves completing an industry internship. She hopes to secure a role at Noise PR, which counts many local bands and solo artists among its clients. "If I could just get an entry level position and learn the ins and outs of the business, that would be the best possible start," Clout said.

a year away, she believes students should seek careers advice early. Since Lorde's manager also studied communications at Unitec, she knows her studies could eventually take her to wherever she wants to be.

-Briar Ingledew

Gap year benefits

Unitec student Briar Ingledew, returned to tertiary education after taking a gap year and working in the fashion industry.

By working in the fashion industry and finding what career she was passionate about; she was able to choose the right degree.

Students, who have completed volunteer work and travelled during their gap years, often stand out when applying for jobs.

-Shannon Clout

Peer support for students at TPA

[Te Puna Ako Learning Centre](#) offers two peer support schemes where students can help each other learn. The schemes are Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS) and Peer Writing Assistants. PASS are study sessions conducted by senior students to help new students master their subjects. PASS was first offered in 2008. Peer Writing Assistant was introduced this year.

It is designed to help students become effective and independent writers. Caroline Malthus, a Senior Lecturer and Examiner said: "We have seen that some students are more comfortable working with another student than a team or a lecturer."

TPA also offers skill workshops, one-on-one sessions, group sessions and



drop-in meetings that can be booked either by coming to the centre, by phone, or through their website.

Hub

TPA's services are available for all Unitec students. Te Puna Ako Learning Centre is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm from Monday to Friday. It is located at the Hub at the Mt Albert Campus.

-Anna Isabelle-Santos

International Applied Sciences postgrads struggle to find work

Is it harder for international students enrolled in the Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Sciences to find a part-time job than local students?

"Nearly everybody is searching for a job at the moment," Jyothi Abraham, who worked for nine years as a nurse in India before enrolling at Unitec, said. Associate Dean for Research in Social and Health Sciences Gillian Whalley said overseas students faced problems because they often did not have any local experience and employers had a lot of applicants for their positions. She said the format of CVs was somewhat culturally dependent. She said students making themselves look like a NZ candidate seemed to be important, although it should not be.

Whalley said students should be open to opportunities and volunteer to work in similar positions. Another problem was registration. It took up to three months to complete registration and was often costly.

According to the Green Party, many highly skilled medical practitioners and other professionals have difficulty getting registered. -Magdalena Dörler

Walking in the dark

Students walking around Unitec's Mt Albert campus at night are often left in the dark. It's not that there aren't enough lights, it's just that sometimes they need replacing and Unitec's facilities team has to rely on people to let them know when new lights are needed.

Unitec career centre helps students choose right path

Choosing what to do with your life when you're 18 is a struggle familiar to Unitec communications student Jasmine Dhillon.

Dhillon – who was born in India and raised in Auckland – made her first foray into the jobs market by becoming a pharmacy assistant. However, she soon realised this wasn't for her. [Unitec Career Advisor](#) Becky Steel said: "People often don't stick with their first education or career path."

Finding something else to study was hard for Dhillon because she was afraid of making the wrong choice a second time. "Although I was always interested in writing and drama I just didn't know where it could lead me," she said.

Steel believes that making career decisions without first getting advice can result in a waste of time and money. Unitec's Career Centre helps students clarify their abilities, skills and dreams as well as advising them on how to achieve them. Dhillon finally gave the Certificate of Communication and Media Arts at Unitec a go and after successfully completing it, knew she'd found what she'd been looking for. Now 20, she's in the second year of her Bachelor's degree and wants to pursue a role in public relations.

-Bettina Achrainner

Unitec facilities manager Amos Sander said there are 244 lights on campus. When the lights are out, students can find themselves walking through the dark. Even with all the lights working, however, students are advised not to walk in deserted areas at night.

-Magdalena Dörler

Govt urged to do more for Syrian refugees

As the crisis in Syria worsens, the New Zealand government has been urged to offer a home to more refugees from the four years-old civil war. Reuters has estimated the death toll in the Syrian civil war is at least 210,000 and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said earlier this year that more than four million people had become refugees.

New Zealand is taking in 750 Syrian refugees over the next two years. The New Zealand Government recently increased the quota by 600.

Conflict

Lynfield College student Hamza Riazuddin, who attended an Amnesty International event support refugees earlier this semester, said New Zealand's leaders should be doing more. "I think more refugees should be coming to New Zealand, we should help people in need because we are all equal and human," Riazuddin said.



Source: Al Jazeera

"We should welcome them, hold events for them and donate towards them." About 250 people gathered outside the Auckland War Memorial to call for more Syrian refugees to be offered places in New Zealand. People flew red 'unite' flags and held candles in a plea for New Zealand to do more to help the Syrians. - Skye Collinson

Driver says Uber threatens livelihood



Ravishan Gunatilake claims the growth of Uber is threatening his livelihood. Uber is a ride sharing mobile app that connects passengers with independent drivers.

Mr Gunatilake said he could not compete with Uber's service and low fares. "Uber is taking away my customers," Mr Gunatilake said.

"Without my customers I have nothing and I am fearful of my future as a taxi driver." "I've spent thousands on licenses, cameras and security equipment to be a taxi driver, but you don't need any of that if you're an Uber driver."

Because of this business model, Uber has sparked protests and riots amongst traditional taxi drivers overseas.

Earlier this year the Government declared it would review the regulations surrounding traditional taxi services to ensure the service stays afloat.

The hidden face of poverty



According to the latest UNICEF figures, an estimated 300,000 children in New Zealand are living below the poverty line. Members of Howick's Catholic community were introduced to the realities of poverty in New Zealand during a seminar held to mark Social Justice Week earlier this semester.

Struggling

The seminar was told 24% of New Zealand families with children were struggling financially. A short documentary produced by Caritas Aotearoa, *Kiwi families: It's our Story* showed families struggling could do

to survive, including the story of a mother and her 10 year-old son who were found sleeping Takapuna beach. During the forum afterwards, people talked about what the community could do to help families facing difficulties and raise awareness about the problem.

Gerry Farrell a volunteer from Dunedin South Pastoral Area said money was not always the answer. "It's about the community coming together," he said.

Suggestions included setting up a community notice board where people could advertise their skills, making food available and swapping food for chores.

-Anna Isabelle Santos

AS

-Aleisha Cawte

8. News

Fashion Week highlight for Communication intern

Project Runway winner Sean Kelly's first runway collection at this year's [New Zealand Fashion Week](#) wasn't just for the fashion elite.

The industry showcase took place on August 24-30 and according to Unitec Communications student Kate Dutton the Kiwi designer's lingerie and bondage themed collection shook up the event's dull atmosphere. Dutton said meeting the reality TV winner was one of the highlights of her Fashion Week internship.

Experience

"Kelly takes the time to talk to everybody," Dutton said.

While not everyone at Fashion Week was as outgoing, Dutton didn't allow it to ruin her overall experience. She said it was an exciting experience, but there was sometimes a feeling that if you were not part of the



fashion elite, you didn't belong. Dutton worked closely with designers Courtney Jamieson and Andrea Moore.

The Miromoda showcase was another highlight as it featured up and coming Māori designers. "But the whole atmosphere was really the best part, especially the constant laughter and champagne," Dutton said.

-Shannon Clout



Local designer remains true to being 100 percent New Zealand

Fashion designer Amber Whitecliffe has remained true to being 100 per cent New Zealand made. After launching her own label in 2012 she's gone on to open an exclusive boutique and a pop-up store in Ponsonby.

Whitecliffe said she was committed to producing quality clothes and takes pride in how all her garments are made locally. "Making everything in New Zealand allows me to have control and produce just a few of each design – which means customers have a unique dress they won't see anyone else in."

Tough

The rise of online shopping had created a tough market for designers, and the launch of her 2015 Spring Collection had reminded her of the challenges she still faces.

Producing garments in bulk is expensive whereas having the whole process based overseas can dramatically cut costs. However, charging GST for online purchases might give local designers a fighting chance. "Supporting your local economy is always important," she said.

"It makes for great business and I make a real effort to know everyone who works for me, as well those who support what I'm trying to do."

-Briar Ingledew

Student residence becomes motel

[Unitec's on-site student accommodation](#) on Great North Rd will be transformed into a motel and backpackers' hostel by the end of the summer.

Construction of the new building and renovations to the existing units are scheduled to begin in February 2016 and will be completed in six weeks. The complex will eventually have a deck overlooking Oakley Creek Reserve.

"It will also mean that students like myself can continue working for the motel during the holidays," Residential Assistant Kendrick James said. Over the summer the buildings are usually empty as most students return home.

"The timing of the opening's perfect as it won't affect anyone while their studying," Kendrick said.

The owners of the building are hoping it becomes a more family-friendly place to stay.

There are two buildings off Great North Road with the motel occupying the main one and the backpackers the other. New students will also be able to return to the refurbished accommodation block.

-Anneliese McNally

The AG Summer Special
showcases work done in
Semester 2 2015 by students
enrolled in the [COMM6537](#)
News Writing class.

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